

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Kuzman

A RESOLUTION by the town of Lowell, Indiana, urging
President Bush to impose a 40% tariff on imported steel.

*Whereas, The United States steel industry has been severely
harmed by a record surge of steel imports since 1998;*

*Whereas, This surge in imports has resulted in the loss of
more than 27,000 steelworker jobs and is the cause of 30 steel
company bankruptcies;*

*Whereas, The import surge has also forced the United
States steel industry to reduced volume, lower prices, and
financial losses;*

Whereas, On October 22, 2001, the International Trade



Commission (ITC) determined that the domestic steel industry has been severely injured by the import surge;

Whereas, The United States steel industry has massive retiree health care liabilities that total \$13 billion and cost the steel industry almost \$1 billion annually;

Whereas, These health care liabilities pose a significant barrier to steel industry consolidation and rationalization that could improve the financial condition of the industry and reduce the impact of foreign imports;

Whereas, Steel company bankruptcies, job losses, and financial losses are contributing to the nation's current economic slowdown and are having serious negative effects on the tax base of cities, counties, and states and on the essential health, education, and municipal services that these governmental entities provide to their citizens; and

Whereas, A strong steel industry is necessary to a healthy economy and to the adequate defense preparedness of the United States: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the town of Lowell, Indiana, calls on President
- 2 Bush to impose a tariff of 40 percent on imported steel for a period of
- 3 four years due to the severity of the damage to the domestic steel
- 4 industry caused by imported steel. This tariff must cover the full range
- 5 of products where injury has been found by the ITC. These products
- 6 include slabs, all flat roll, steel pipe, and tubes, rebar, and other long
- 7 products.
- 8 SECTION 2. That the town of Lowell calls on President Bush to
- 9 act on these tariffs in an expedited manner to provide essential relief to
- 10 the domestic steel industry.
- 11 SECTION 3. That the town of Lowell calls on the federal
- 12 government to take immediate action with regard to the removal of the
- 13 principal barrier to consolidation - retiree health care liabilities - that
- 14 certain steelmakers have accrued through prior restructuring actions as
- 15 well as those that will result from future rationalization activities.
- 16 SECTION 4. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
- 17 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to President Bush,
- 18 the Indiana Congressional delegation, and the Lowell town council.

